



TREAT ASIA

A Cooperative Approach to Combating HIV in Asia and the Pacific

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A REGION AT RISK

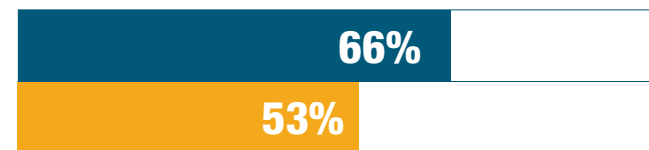
The Asia-Pacific region is home to nearly 60% of the world's population and more people living with HIV than any region outside sub-Saharan Africa. While in recent years Eastern and Southern Africa have shown remarkable progress in stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Asia's HIV response has stagnated.

5.2 million people in the Asia-Pacific region are living with HIV/AIDS.

In the Asia-Pacific, as in much of the world, HIV/AIDS is

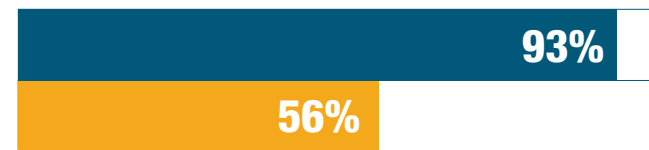
concentrated among key populations—men who have sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs (PWID), transgender people, and sex workers. While sustained and focused efforts to reach key populations have significantly reduced HIV infections in some South and Southeast Asian countries, epidemics are expanding in other countries and stigma and discrimination persist as barriers to healthcare.

Treatment coverage, adults



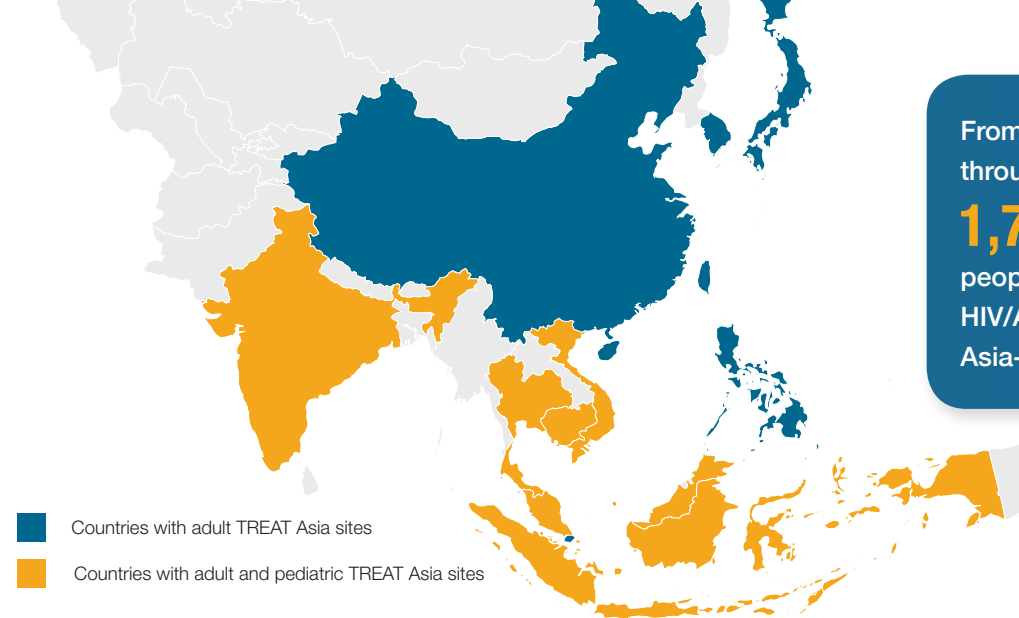
% of adults living with HIV aged 15+

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission



% of pregnant women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy to prevent HIV infection in their babies

■ East and Southern Africa ■ Asia-Pacific



From 2010 through 2017, **1,790,000** people died of HIV/AIDS in the Asia-Pacific.

New HIV infections declined by 14% in the Asia-Pacific between 2010 and 2017, but among youth aged 15-24 years in the Philippines, new infections grew by 168%. In 2017, 53% of people living with HIV in the Asia-Pacific were accessing antiretroviral therapy, but in Pakistan, only 8% were. And although AIDS-related deaths in the region were reduced by 39% between 2010 and 2017, in Indonesia, they increased by 70%.

A COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE

Established by amfAR in 2001, TREAT Asia (Therapeutics Research, Education, and AIDS Training in Asia) is a collaborative network of clinics, hospitals, research institutions, and civil society that is working to ensure the safe and effective delivery of treatments for HIV and related infections to adults and children across

the Asia-Pacific. TREAT Asia's unique capacity to bring together researchers, clinicians, advocates, and policymakers plays an important role in the region's response to HIV/AIDS, and it has become a model for regional collaboration.

RESEARCH

TREAT Asia is working to understand optimal approaches to treating HIV, common co-infections, and related health conditions. The TREAT Asia network currently includes 21 adult and 20 pediatric partner sites in 12 countries in South, Southeast, and East Asia. The sites contribute to TREAT Asia's observational cohort databases, which include patient-level data from over 120,000 children, adolescents, and adults living with HIV.

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Photo: Kevin Tachman

By pooling regional information, the network is able to better understand epidemic trends and identify gaps in clinical evidence to inform national HIV treatment protocols. Since 2006, TREAT Asia has led the Asia-Pacific component of the U.S. National Institutes of Health's global HIV research consortium known as leDEA, and it contributes Asia-Pacific data to UNAIDS Spectrum modeling activities.

EDUCATION

TREAT Asia hosts workshops and develops educational materials to help clinicians, healthcare providers, and community advocates better understand and address the epidemic within their own country contexts. These efforts include trainings to improve HIV and hepatitis C treatment literacy, the development of flip charts and fact sheets as educational resources for clinicians and patients, and policy briefs on access to medicines for people living with HIV.

120,000 patients have been enrolled in TREAT Asia's research databases.



Photo: Kevin Tachman

The program recognizes that adolescents living with HIV experience unique challenges in managing their care, and works to educate providers and community advocates about the multidimensional aspects of growing up with HIV. Through its Youth ACATA (Asia Community for AIDS Treatment and Advocacy) program, TREAT Asia also develops the leadership capacity of young adults, improves their understanding of HIV research, and increases their ability to advocate for their rights at national, regional, and international levels.

ADVOCACY

TREAT Asia plays a key advocacy role in the region, making the case for evidence-based HIV-related policies and programming. TREAT Asia works closely with national and regional advocates, along with amfAR's U.S.-based Public Policy Office, to develop strategies for policy change that facilitate broader access to affordable, high-quality HIV treatment, and the removal of barriers that prevent people from accessing care.

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In recent years, TREAT Asia has developed a robust advocacy program for hepatitis C, a serious global health problem and a common HIV co-infection. Although direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) can cure more than 95% of people with hepatitis C, these drugs remain difficult to access for most of the people who need them in the region. Collaborating with a network of community research and advocacy organizations, TREAT Asia is studying the outcomes of HIV and hepatitis C co-infection as it works to scale up treatment for hepatitis C.

Only

53%

of people living with HIV in the Asia-Pacific have access to antiretroviral therapy.

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Cover Photo: Kevin Tachman